

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00952 060925Z  
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
HA-05 IO-13 MCT-01 /084 W  
-----034593 062215Z /70

R 060701Z MAY 78  
FM USINT BAGHDAD  
TO SECSTATE QASHDC 6126  
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L B A G H D A D 0 9 5 2

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, IZ, IR  
SUBJ: IRAQI RELATIONS WITH IRAN: RELIGIOUS PILGRIMS

REF: BAGHDAD 488

1. IRANIAN UNDERSECRETARY OF AWQAF AND PILGRIMAGE LEFT IRAQ  
MAY 2 AFTER A FOUR-DAY VISIT. HE WAS RECEIVED BY R.C.C. MEMBER  
AND INTERIOR MINISTER IZZAT IBRAHIM FOLLOWING SUCCESSFUL  
NEGOTIATION OF A PILGRIMAGE AGREEMENT.

2. BAGHDAD PRESS REPORTED AGREEMENT WITH IRAN FOR 40,000  
IRANIAN PILGRIMS TO VISIT THE SHIA SHRINES IN IRAQ DURING THE  
COMING YEAR. VISITORS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO COME IN GROUPS FOR  
STAYS NOT TO EXCEET ONE WEEK.

3. STATE ORGANIZATION FOR TOURISM ANNOUNCED THAT A LARGER  
NUMBER OF PILGRIMS WILL BE ABLE TO COME IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS  
DUE TO EXPECTED COMPLETION IN 1979 OF HOTELS IN KERBALA,  
NAJAF, SAMARRA AND KADHEMAIN, CITIES WHERE MAJOR SHIA SHRINES  
ARE LOCATED.

4. PILGRIMAGE CONDITIONS WERE, REPORTEDLY, AN UNSETTLED ISSUE  
AT TIME OF RECENT VISIT OF IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER (REFTEL).

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IRAQIS, WHO SEE IT AS PART OF AN INTERNAL SECURITY PROBLEM  
INVOLVING THEIR OWN SHIA POPULATION, SEEM TO HAVE MADE CONCESSION  
TO IRANIAN URGINGS TO INCREASE THE LEVEL OF PILGRIMAGE TRAFFIC.  
THIS SUPPORTS VIEW THAT IRAQ REMAINS KEEN TO IMPROVE OVERALL  
RELATIONS WITH ITS LARGE NEIGHBOR.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, AGREEMENTS, TOURISM, RELIGIOUS GROUPS, VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978BAGHDA00952  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
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